

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Campus Center, Room H-313C, Tele. ext. 3215

Start of the new Academic Year? Time to review

How to Submit a Grant Application at the College at Old Westbury

All applications for external grant support are subject to review and approval by select College officials prior to application submission. In the vast majority of cases, grant providers will require endorsement of a grant application by an authorized organizational official (AOR) because, legally, most grants are awarded to an institution, not the individual serving as principal investigator or project director (PI/PD). The institution receiving a grant is expected to assume responsibility for an array of regulatory issues associated with grant supported activities and spending; for this reason, it is important to the grant provider to obtain a formal institutional assurance – an authorizing signature – attesting that the College has conducted a proper prior review of all proposed grant-supported work and accepts responsibility, in the event of an award.

At Old Westbury, the prior review/approval process is guided by a required form available in hard copy from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) or online at www.oldwestbury.edu/research. This "routing form" or "local approval form" is designed to capture some basic facts about the grant proposal and to capture two sets of signatures:

- Signatures reflecting the concurrence of all faculty who are expected to participate in the grant program; and,
- Signatures of College officials with oversight responsibility for different aspects of grant or project activity.

It is important for grant applicants to consult directly with their Department Chair and Dean to assure that projected workloads of the PI/PD and faculty collaborators can be met. Additionally, any project costs that the Department, School or College may incur not fully paid for or reimbursed by the grant must be identified at this stage of proposal submission. Such costs are often referred to as cost-share, matching funds, or in-kind contributions. All of these are auditable commitments and our failure or inability to meet these financial obligations will have consequences; this is why appropriate campus officials must approve any cost-share commitments made. Cost-share obligations should be discussed well in advance of a grant application deadline.

All signatories in this approval process should be given a reasonable opportunity to review the complete grant proposal, not just portions. Most grant applicants would probably admit -- it doesn't hurt to have a second pair of eyes take a good look at your complete and final (or near final) proposal document. Grant applicants are urged to submit the routing form and complete grant application to ORSP at least ten (10) days in advance of the sponsor agency's deadline. Campus officials recognize such a lead time may not always be possible; for this reason we note that if a complete proposal is not received at least four full business days in advance of a sponsor's deadline, the application is at a considerably increased risk of not being approved for submission.

Best advice: Consult the ORSP early if you are planning to submit a grant proposal. Do not wait until the last few days before a deadline to contact ORSP. Learn about and take advantage of available ORSP proposal preparation services. Our goal is to help you prepare a complete and responsive grant application including forms accurate in administrative detail and a budget and budget narrative that go unquestioned. We want you to submit a proposal that demonstrates an awareness of sponsor-mandated or government-regulated issues (use of humans as research subjects; use of vertebrate animals; radioactive or other hazardous materials and waste; potential conflicts of interest; the sometimes-mandatory training in the Responsible Conduct of Research; a data management plan; export control issues; and, so on).

Special notes on electronic proposal submissions: [1] When it is time to transmit your grant application online (via FastLane, Research.gov, Grants.gov, ASSIST, or other system), be available. Ideally, be physically present at the ORSP. Leaving a cell number for ORSP to call is not good enough. [2] Review the complete proposal with ORSP, making certain that all uploaded documents are the truly intended documents and not, for example, an early draft. [3] Start the submission process early enough that any unforeseen technology issues can be resolved. [4] Know that a 5:00 PM deadline means 5:00 PM sharp. Computers are unforgiving. The proposal you attempt to submit at 5:01 PM will be rejected. [5] Know that in the case of applications submitted to government agencies, program officers cannot authorize a late submission to an individual.

We want your prospective grant provider to have confidence in you and in Old Westbury. The prescribed prior review and proposal submission advice can help instill such confidence and confidence is important to success in grant-seeking. If you need an assist of any kind preparing your grant application, please give a call to the ORSP at 3215.

Small Research Grants Program, Spencer Foundation

URL: https://www.spencer.org/grant_types/small-research-grant Application due date: November 1, 2019.

The Small Research Grants Program of the Spencer Foundation supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived, with budgets up to \$50,000 for projects ranging from one to five years. This program is considered “field-initiated” in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic. The Foundation is receptive to projects that utilize a wide array of research methods including quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, ethnographies, design-based research, participatory methods, historical research, and more.

Research Grants (Standard and Young Investigator awards)

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

URL: <https://afsp.org/our-work/research/grant-information/> Application due date: November 15, 2019.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) provides grants to support research on suicide from a variety of disciplines including psychology, neurobiology, sociology, social work, and others. Applications are evaluated based on the potential of the research to contribute to the understanding and ultimate prevention of suicide. Grants are not intended to support the development or implementation of prevention programs or educational programs that do not have a significant research component. Although prior research on suicide is not required, applicants are expected to show evidence of prior research or training in a related field. Standard Research Grants of up to \$50,000 per year for a two-year period are awarded to investigators at any academic rank. Young Investigator awards provide funding of up to \$90,000 over two years of which \$10,000 (\$5,000 per year) is to be set aside for an established suicide researcher to mentor the Young Investigator. AFSP has volunteered to assist young investigators in identifying suitable mentors.

Social Science Research Programs, The Russell Sage Foundation

URL: <http://www.russellsage.org/research/categories/requests-proposals>

Letter of Inquiry Deadline (for programs listed below): November 26, 2019. Invited Proposal Deadline: March 12, 2020.

The Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) is dedicated to programs of social science research. Applications should limit budget requests to a maximum of \$175,000 (including overhead at 15%) over no more than a two-year period. Requests up to \$35,000 (known as Presidential Grants) cannot include indirect costs, and may be increased to \$50,000 when the proposed project has special needs for gathering data. The Foundation’s current research priorities include:

- **Social, Political and Economic Inequality**

The program on Social Inequality supports innovative research on whether rising economic inequality has affected social, political, and economic institutions, and the extent to which increased inequality has affected equality of opportunity, social mobility, and the intergenerational transmission of advantage. Matters of interest under this initiative include, but are not limited to Economic Well-being, Equality of Opportunity, and Intergenerational Mobility; Political Institutions and the Policy Process; Psychological and/or Cultural Changes; Education; Changes in Labor Markets; Child Development and Child Outcomes; Neighborhoods and Communities; and, Families, Family Structure, and Family Formation.

- **Behavioral Economics**

The program on Behavioral Economics supports novel research that uses insights and methods from psychology, economics, sociology, political science and other social sciences to examine and improve social and living conditions in the United States. The Foundation seeks investigator-initiated research proposals that will broaden our understanding of the social, economic and political consequences of actual behaviors and decisions.

- **Decision Making and Human Behavior in Context**

The Decision Making and Human Behavior in Context initiative supports innovative research on decision making across the social sciences that examines causes, consequences, processes, or context from a behavioral or alternative perspective. The Foundation expects to support a wide range of research on decision-making in context by scholars in psychology, political science, sociology, and other social science fields who are pursuing questions consistent with the aims of the Foundation. This initiative complements RSF’s long-standing Behavioral Economics Program, described in the paragraph immediately above.

Research Grants Program, National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE)

URL: <https://www.nefe.org/research/default.aspx> Application due date: December 3, 2019.

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) is dedicated to inspiring empowered financial decision making for individuals and families through every stage of life. NEFE funds innovative and actionable research that increases the financial education community’s body of knowledge; provides insight into financial behavior; and contributes to the field’s understanding of effective educational practices. Inquiries are encouraged from disciplines in fields as diverse as behavior, economics, neuroscience, sociology, psychology, marketing, finance, education, change theory, and decision sciences. Recent NEFE grant awards for research projects have ranged from \$100,000 to \$185,000 on awards over periods of one to three years.

Accountable Institutions and Behavior (AIB) Program, National Science Foundation

URL: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505715 Application due date: January 15, 2020.

The Accountable Institutions and Behavior (AIB) Program supports basic scientific research that advances knowledge and understanding of issues broadly related to attitudes, behavior, and institutions connected to public policy and the provision of public services. Research proposals are expected to be theoretically motivated, conceptually precise, methodologically rigorous, and empirically oriented. Substantive areas include (but are not limited to) the study of individual and group decision-making, political institutions (appointed or elected), attitude and preference formation and expression, electoral processes and voting, public administration, and public policy. This work can focus on a single case or can be done in a comparative context, either over time or cross-sectionally. The Program does not fund applied research. The Program also supports research experiences for undergraduate students and infrastructural activities, including methodological innovations.

Security and Preparedness (SAP) Program, National Science Foundation

URL: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505712 Application due date: January 15, 2020.

The Security and Preparedness (SAP) Program supports basic scientific research that advances knowledge and understanding of issues broadly related to global and national security. Research proposals are evaluated on the criteria of intellectual merit and broader impacts; the proposed projects are expected to be theoretically motivated, conceptually precise, methodologically rigorous, and empirically oriented. Substantive areas include (but are not limited to) international relations, global and national security, human security, political violence, state stability, conflict processes, regime transition, international and comparative political economy, and peace science. Moreover, the Program supports research experiences for undergraduate students and infrastructural activities, including methodological innovations. The Program does not fund applied research.

Law and Social Sciences Program, National Science Foundation

URL: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505712 Application due date: January 15, 2020.

The Law & Social Sciences Program considers proposals that address social scientific studies of law and law-like systems of rules. The Program is inherently interdisciplinary and multi-methodological. Successful proposals describe research that advances scientific theory and understanding of the connections between human behavior and law, legal institutions, or legal processes. Social scientific studies of law often approach law as dynamic, made in multiple arenas, and with the participation of multiple actors. Fields of study include many disciplines, and often address problems including though not limited to Crime, Violence, and Policing; Economic Issues; Governance and Courts; Human Rights; and, Punishment and Corrections.



National Institutes
of Health

SCORE (SC1) vs AREA (R15) Research Grants

From time to time, questions are raised concerning the two research grant programs of the NIH, SCORE and AREA, both of which seem well-suited for Old Westbury biomedical and behavioral research investigators. This article will attempt to highlight some of the features and differences among the two.

First, it should be noted that the next deadline for submission of SC1 proposals to the National Institute of General Medical Science's SCORE program is imminent, September 7. However, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has contacted NIH and confirmed that a new SCORE Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will be issued later this year with two submission deadlines planned in 2020: January 25 and May 25. Upcoming deadlines for AREA are October 25 and February 25.

PD/PI eligibility: **SCORE:** In general, PD/PI may not have served as PD/PI of a previous NIH research grant or other federal research award in excess of \$50,000 direct costs. See FOA for complete details. Since the SC1 is a career enhancement award for an individual PD/PI, multiple PD(s)/PI(s) are not allowed. **AREA:** No similar restrictions.

Funding levels: **SCORE:** Awards provide Direct Costs support of up to \$250,000/year for periods of up to four years. **AREA:** Awards provide Direct Costs support of up to \$300,000 over the course of a project period of one, two or three years.

Important Spending Restrictions: **SCORE:** Student stipends and student salaries are prohibited. **AREA:** Student involvement is critical; student salaries are generally expected.

Program Objectives: **SCORE:** The overarching goal of the SCORE program is to foster research career enhancement opportunities for faculty at institutions that have an explicitly stated historical mission focused on training students from nationally underrepresented backgrounds and/or a documented historical track record of recruiting, retaining, training, and graduating underrepresented students in order to increase their research competitiveness and promote their transition to non-SCORE external sources of funding. **AREA:** The purpose of the AREA program is to support small scale research grants at institutions that do not receive substantial funding from the NIH, with an emphasis on providing biomedical research experiences primarily for undergraduate students, and enhancing the research environment at these applicant institutions.

Call for Public Health Research on Cannabis, National Institutes of Health

URL: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DA-19-065.html> Application deadlines: Vary.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a unit of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has issued a notice to encourage development of grant applications on the effects of changing cannabis laws and policies in the US and globally on public health. A copy of this notice is accessible at the URL cited above.

Policies associated with the use of cannabis are changing rapidly and far outpacing the knowledge needed to determine and minimize the public health impacts of these changes. A growing number of states have loosened restrictions on cannabis, including those on sales and use, by passing medical marijuana laws or by making cannabis legal for adult recreational use. In some cases, states have done both. Recognizing this widening research gap, NIDA solicited input from an Advisory Council Workgroup to identify cannabis policy research areas with the greatest urgency and potential for impact. One outcome from the Workgroup's report is this appeal for additional research. Potential research topics include, but are not limited to:

- Developing standards for measuring cannabis (including hemp and hemp product) dose, intoxication, and impairment.
- Enhancing existing epidemiology research to study trends for cannabis use, including new products, patterns of use, and reasons for use in different populations.
- Characterizing the composition/potency of cannabis, methods of administration, cannabis extracts/concentrates, and cannabis of varying constituents (e.g. cannabinoid or terpene content), as well as how those factors affect physical and mental health.
- Determining the physical and mental health antecedents of use, as well as outcomes of use.
- Exploring the impact of polysubstance use on health outcomes, including interactions (substitution/complementation) with alcohol, tobacco, and prescription and nonprescription opioids;
- Examining reasons for initiation and continued use of marijuana for therapeutic purposes.
- Investigating the effects of different patterns of cannabis use on brain development, educational attainment, and transition to work and adult roles.
- Determine the prevalence of cannabis-involved vehicular crashes and other types of injury or property damage.
- Investigate how cannabis industry practices, including research on marketing, taxes, and prices, impact use and health outcomes (e.g. how different price points impact consumption patterns across different levels of use).
- Determine the impact of federal, state, and local marijuana policies and their implementation on use and health outcomes.
- Explore the heterogeneity of regulatory schemes (e.g. models for retail distribution of cannabis) to understand which combinations or components minimize harm to public health.

Upcoming NIH Research Proposal Deadlines

- R01** Traditional Research Project Grants, February 5 and June 5
- R03** Small Research Grants, October 16 and February 16
- R15** Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA), October 25 and February 25
- R21** Exploratory and Development Grants, October 16 and February 16

Applications prepared in response to this announcement may be submitted after October 5, 2019. Researchers should follow guidance provided in traditional parent FOAs (Funding Opportunity Announcements) on research grants. Page one of the URL cited above provides links to the parent FOAs, for R01, R03, and R21 awards. The parent announcement for R15 (AREA) applications can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/par-18-714.html>.

For further assistance, contact Tom Murphy (murphyt@oldwestbury.edu).

www.oldwestbury.edu/research



The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs serves the College at Old Westbury in the dual roles of promoting grant-supported scholarly activity and assisting in the administration and management of sponsored programs. Consequently, the Office reports to both the Office of Academic Affairs and the Division of Business & Finance.

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